Widening and repairs to National Highway No. 13 Regarding.

1552 SRI N. S. KHED (Indi).—Will the Minister for Public works and Irrigation de pleased to State.

a) Whether the distressed conditlon of NH-13 has come the notice of the Government ;

b) What are the reasons for these distress condition and whether there is any provision to punish the persons for the same;

c) Whether there is any approval and assistance from the Central Government for repairs and widening of two lance the stretch of 200 Kms. from Kushtagi to Sholapur on this stretch of road ;

d) Whether this road is playing an important role in connecting Northern India with Southern India in the interest of State and Country ?

SRI H. D. DEVEGOWDA (Minister for Public Works and Irrigation).—

a) Government is aware that some portions of this road are not in a stisfactory condition.

b) The stretch of the road 200 Kms. in length from Kushtagi to Karnataka Border on NH-13, except in a few reaches, runs in black cotton soil area. The road is having a siugle lane carriageway. The vehicular traffic on this road consists of mostly goods traffic and has increased considerably. The unsatisfactory condition of the road is due to the fact that the road mostly runs in black cotton soil area there is inadequate crust thickness and also due to increase in traffic. Hence the question of punishing anybody does not arise.

c) Out of 200 Kms, length from Kushtagi to Border, 42 Kms. existing single lane has been strengthened at a cost of Rs. 175.00 lakhs. During the current year, it is proposed to widen 37 Kms. from single lane to two lanes and strengthening the existing road, wherever it is bad, at a cost of Rs. 245.00 lakhs. During the 7th Five Year Plan a provision of Rs. 24.77 crores is proposed in order to widen 160 Kms. length of road and strengthen the weak stretches of road, construction of ROBs, widening the CD works, and provision of byepasses. The works are going to be taken up in phased manner depending upon the allotment of funds from Government of India.

d) Yes.